GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3990
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2000
DEFENCE TIE WITH GULF COUNTRIES
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to extend its military presence in Gulf countries;

(b) if so, whether a number of Gulf countries have offered to develop defence ties with India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India and Oman have formulated defence ties which are developing quite rapidly;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken to help other countries like Saudi Arabia, and the other richer States in the area of defence development?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c): Does not arise.

(d) to (f): At present, defence cooperation exists in the field of training and goodwill visits with some of the Gulf countries. The Indian Navy, as all other Navies of the world, has been undertaking Goodwill Visits to countries around the world, including the Gulf countries, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Iran and Qatar.

During the visit of Mr. Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman to India from July 17-19, 2000, it was agreed by both sides to set up a Indo-Oman Strategic Consultative Group, to be headed at the level of Secretary in the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs. This Group would be responsible for coordinating all aspects of Indo-Oman relations, political, economic, cultural, science and technology and defence on a continuing basis.